



Borough of



Haslingden.

THE
MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1894.

HASLINGDEN :

J. A. DONALDSON, JOHN STREET PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING WORKS.

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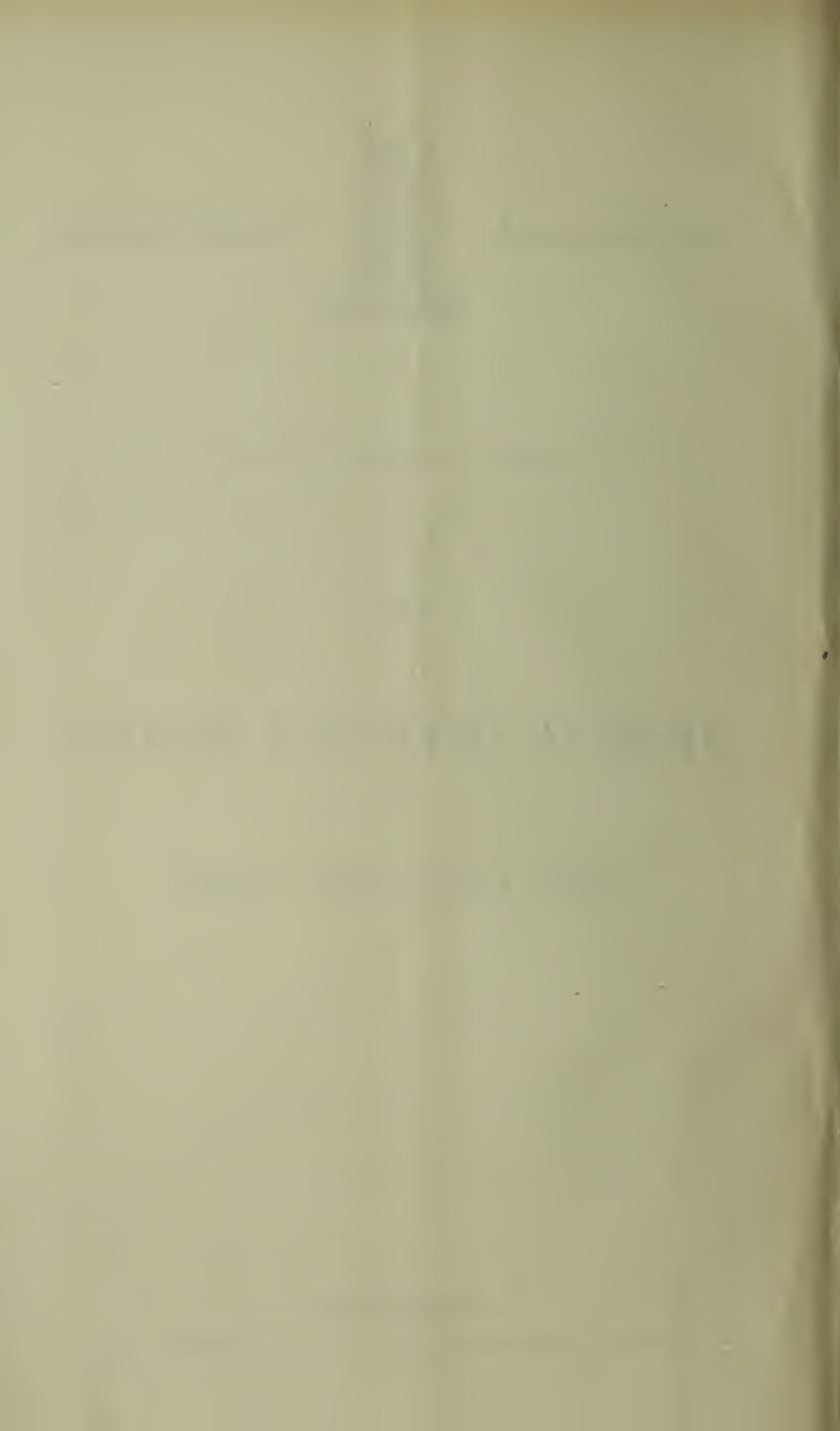


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BOROUGH OF HASLINGDEN.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,

FEBRUARY 12TH, 1895.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Haslingden.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the 19th Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Haslingden.

This Report relates to the twelve months ended December 31st, 1894, and is made out in compliance with the Order of the Local Government Board, dated March, 1880.

The following are the particulars as to number of houses, estimated population, and area (in acres) of each Ward :—

	No. of Houses.		Estimated Population.		Area in Acres.
Town Ward	885	...	3,936	...	55
Holden Ward	776	...	3,721	...	140
Syke Ward	734	...	3,356	...	590
Acre Ward	665	...	3,151	...	1,750
Grane Ward	483	...	1,982	...	2,537
Helmshore Ward ...	596	...	2,405	...	2,950
	<hr/> 4,139		<hr/> 18,551		<hr/> 8,022

There were 438 births and 273 deaths in the Borough during the year, which gives a birth rate of 23·6 and a death rate of 14·7 per 1,000 of estimated living population. The natural increase of the population, or surplus of births over deaths, was 165.

In Town Ward there were	64	deaths,	Mortality	16·03
In Holden ,, ,,	57	,, ,,	,, ,,	15·05
In Syke ,, ,,	57	,, ,,	,, ,,	17
In Acre ,, ,,	41	,, ,,	,, ,,	13
In Grane ,, ,,	20	,, ,,	,, ,,	10·1
In Helmshore ,, ,,	34	,, ,,	,, ,,	14·1

The birth rate for 1893 was 26·1, and the natural increase to the population was 178. The birth rate for 1892 was 29·7, and the natural increase to the population 112. These figures added to 165, the increase for the past year, will make 455, the natural increase to the population since the census was taken in 1891. I have, however, only estimated the increase at 275, as a great many people remove from the district, in search of work, when trade is so unsettled as it has been during the last few years.

Mortality as to Age :

	Town.	Holden.	Syke	Acre.	Grane.	H'shore
Under 1 year	14	16	13	13	5	7
1 to 5 years.....	11	8	7	5	1	2
5 to 15 ⁺ years	6	2	2	2	...	1
15 to 25 years.....	5	1	3	2	1	1
25 to 65 years.....	23	23	24	13	10	16
65 years & upwards	5	7	8	6	3	7
Totals...	64	57	57	41	20	34

I am still unable to give you the Birth Statistics for each Ward, as the Registrars do not state the localities of births in their weekly returns. If you would like these to be got out in my next Annual Report, I shall have to ask you to instruct the Registrars to supply me with the requisite information.

MORTALITY FROM NON-ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

	Town		Holden.		Syke.		Acre.		Grane.		H'shore.	
	under 5 years	over 5 years	under 5 years	over 5 years	under 5 years	over 5 years	under 5 years	over 5 years	under 5 years	over 5 years	under 5 years	over 5 years
Brain	3	2	3	7	4	10	3	4	1	...	1	2
Heart .....	...	8	...	6	...	5	...	1	...	6	...	6
Bronchitis	4	5	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	4
Pneumonia	2	1	3	2	2	2	5	3	...	1	...	2
Pleurisy .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	1	4	...	2	...	4	...	5	...	1	...	3
Other Chest .....	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdomen .....	...	3	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	3	4
Old Age. ....	...	2	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injuries	1	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes. ...	9	1	9	4	6	2	5	1	1	1	2	1
	20	30	21	28	16	33	17	19	6	12	7	24

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever ...	2	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup (Membranous)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever ...	...	2	1	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever ..	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Whooping Cough	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Rheumatic Fever.	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza .....	...	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
	5	9	3	5	4	4	1	4	...	2	1	2
Totals	64		57		57		41		20		34	

The death rate from the seven chief zymotic diseases, viz., Small-pox, Measles, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, and Typhoid Fever, was 1·6 per 1,000, and for the different Wards as follows:—Town Ward 2·5, Holden Ward 1·6, Syke Ward 1·7, Acre Ward 1·5, Grane Ward ·5, and Helmshore Ward 1·2.

The death rate from chest affections was 3·01 per 1,000 in the whole district, and in Town Ward 3·5, Holden Ward 2·1, Syke Ward 3·2, Acre Ward 3·8, Grane Ward 2·02, and Helmshore Ward 2·9.

The death rate from Phthisis (Consumption) was 1·07 in the whole district, and in Town Ward 1·2, Holden Ward ·53, Syke Ward 1·1, Acre Ward 1·5, Grane Ward ·5, and Helmshore Ward 1·2 per 1,000 of estimated population.

The rate of mortality from Heart Disease was 1·7 in the whole district, and in Town Ward 2·03, Holden Ward 1·6, Syke Ward 1·4, Acre Ward ·3, Grane Ward 3·03, and Helmshore Ward 2·5 per 1,000.

The rate of infant mortality under 1 year to every 1,000 births was 157·5, and to every 1,000 deaths 252·7.

The rate of infant mortality under 5 years of age to every 1,000 deaths was 373·2.

Under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 217 cases were notified to me, which were distributed as follows:—

	Town.	Holden.	Syke.	Acre.	Grane.	H'shore.
Small-pox	12	8	1	1	...	1
Diphtheria.....	1	1	3	4	1	1
Membranous Croup	1	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	8	16	13	6	4	4
Scarlatina	45	9	25	9	8	1
Puerperal Fever ...	1	2	1	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever	7	4	9	7	1	1
Totals	75	40	52	27	14	9

On the 13th of August an epidemic of Small-pox broke out in the district, which continued till the 8th of November, when the last case was discharged from the Hospital. The first case occurred at Acre, then followed 7 cases from another neighbourhood, called Holden Vale. I traced all these 7 cases to one house, in which a young girl had had the disease in a very mild form, and it had not been recognised by her parents. The father of this girl is the Steward of a Working-man's Club, which was frequented by three of the men who contracted the disease. I could not trace where the young girl contracted the disease, as she was stated not to have been away from home for some time previously. I could not trace any connection between the Club and several of the cases; in fact, so far as I could ascertain, the epidemic broke out in three or four different centres. I could not trace any connection between any of our cases and those in any other town. There were in all 22 cases, which were treated at the

temporary Hospital, at Clod Farm, belonging to the Corporation. As there was not sufficient accommodation in the house, several cases were treated in a canvas tent, which was erected near the house. There were only 3 deaths in the establishment, and one of them was in a moribund condition when he was sent in, surviving short of 12 hours. The tent was heated with hot water pipes, and was very comfortable. The patients appeared to do better in the tent than in the house, which is a very unsuitable building for hospital purposes. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking my professional brethren in Haslingden for their co-operation in assisting me to stamp out the epidemic, by giving early information of cases that came to their knowledge, and by not throwing obstacles in the way of their removal to the Hospital. Although the building is very unsuitable for hospital purposes, I think there is no doubt but that it helped us to stamp out what would, no doubt, have been a very serious epidemic, if it had been allowed to run its natural course unchecked.

I should strongly recommend you to erect a proper building for the purpose of isolating Small-pox patients, with as little delay as possible, as there is no knowing how soon we may have another outbreak of the disease. I hear that there are several cases at Burnley, only 8 miles away. Provided a good administrative block is erected, I do not think there is any necessity to build a larger hospital than will accommodate about 12 patients, as we could always put up canvas tents if more room was needed.

The other death from Small-pox, which appears on the list, took place at the Small-pox Hospital belonging to the Guardians of the Haslingden Union, and was that of a patient removed from the Borough of Rawtenstall.

Two out of the three deaths were those of persons who had not been vaccinated, and the other was that of a man who had been, long before the Small-pox came on, in a very weak condition of health.

As regards the measures taken to stamp out the epidemic: Besides isolation, already mentioned, all infected bedding was burned; all infected clothing was washed, or otherwise thoroughly disinfected; and as many as I could possibly induce of those who had been near infection were re-vaccinated. I will take this opportunity of again calling your attention to the inconvenient situation of the disinfecting apparatus (dry heat), which is situated too far away from the centre of the population, and also to the lack of any proper conveyance for collecting and conveying infected clothing to and from the apparatus. If you have it in contemplation to erect a Small-pox Hospital in the same field where this apparatus is situated, it might turn out to be, eventually, useful; but, if you have not, I should strongly recommend you to have it removed to some place nearer the Town. I would suggest either the Town's Yard at Carr Hall, or a corner of the land at West View.

You will notice that a considerable number of cases of Scarlatina were notified during the year, viz., 97, but on turning to the statistics of mortality, you will see that there

were only six deaths. It may, therefore, be inferred that most of the cases were of a mild type. As we have no hospital for the isolation of Scarlatina, very little could be done to prevent the disease from spreading, beyond the use of disinfectants and advising parents not to send children to school from infected houses. At no time in the year did the disease assume epidemic proportions, most of the cases being sporadic, and seldom two houses in contiguity being infected at the same time.

Although there were 11 cases of Diphtheria reported, there was only one death. It may, therefore, be assumed that these cases were also of a mild character. The usual measures were taken to disinfect premises where the disease existed; and where structural sanitary defects were found, measures were taken to have them remedied.

You will notice that 29 cases of Typhoid Fever were notified during the year, and that there were 8 deaths from this disease. Town, Syke, and Acre Wards had the largest number of cases in them, viz., 7, 9, and 7 respectively, while Holden had 4 cases, and Grane and Helmsshore had each 1 case. These cases were all investigated, as far as possible, and measures taken to disinfect the premises, and, where practicable, sanitary defects were remedied.

A great many sanitary defects arise from short streets and private house drains not being coupled up with the new main sewers which have been, for some time, laid down in the principal thoroughfares in the Borough. Resolutions have been frequently passed by the Health Committee, ordering

this work to be proceeded with, but for some reason, very few drains have, up to now, been coupled up. I must again respectfully call your attention to this matter.

There are several new streets in the Borough which have not yet been paved, and are therefore in a very dirty condition in wet weather. I fear they are the causes of unhealthiness to the houses abutting on them, as considerable quantities of house refuse are thrown out, and buried in the mud. I believe that you cannot get leave from the Local Government Board to borrow money for the purpose of paving and sewerage these private streets, on account of the Sewage Outfall Works not being completed. It is very desirable that they should be done as soon as possible.

A great many closets have been converted from the old bog-hole system to the pail system during the year. Although the adoption of the pail system greatly improves the sanitary condition of property, and causes a marked diminution of Typhoid Fever and such like zymotic diseases, I think the system known as the "water carriage system" is a great improvement on the pail system. It is more cleanly, and saves the cost of removing night-soil with carts. Where the situation of property is suitable, I should recommend you to encourage property owners to adopt the water-carriage system in preference to the pail system. Several closets have been put on this system during the year, and they are all working very well.

The scavenging of the Borough has, up to now, been done by contract, and will continue to be so done until the

end of March. I have frequently expressed my opinion as to the manner in which the work has been done, and, without saying more, I am very glad to learn that you have decided to scavenge at least two of the more populous Wards, with your own horses and men. It is very desirable that scavenging should be well done, irrespective of cost, as the health of the people largely depends on the cleanliness of their dwellings, both inside and out.

The Joint Sewage Scheme, which is to deal with the sewage of Haslingden, Rawtenstall, and Bacup Boroughs, has been got into shape during the year. This has been delayed for a long time, on account of difficulties between the two last-named authorities, and also in obtaining the consent of the Local Government Board. I believe that everything is now arranged, and, as soon as the weather will permit, the work can be pushed on with. The sewerage of the Borough cannot be pushed much further until the Outfall Sewage Works are ready to deal with the sewage, so it is doubtful if you will be able to sewer and pave those new streets which so urgently need it during the present year.

You have had it in contemplation to erect a Destructor to burn ash-pit and other refuse. A Sub-Committee from the Health Committee has visited several towns where these destructors are at work, but it has not completed its investigations. From my own observations, as a member of that Sub-Committee, I should strongly recommend you to erect one, as I believe them to be very efficient for the purpose which they are intended. There is very great difficulty in

obtaining suitable tips for refuse which will not, eventually, be a source of danger to the public health. There is great danger of old tips being used as building sites. Cases have been known in which epidemics of Typhoid Fever have broken out in houses built on these old tips. The best Destructors which the Sub-Committee saw were almost self-supporting as regards fuel, and, besides that, gave off sufficient heat to form considerable quantities of steam, which could be used for turning dynamos or any other purpose required by the Sanitary Authorities. There was very little nuisance from the best furnaces we saw. In some cases, complaints were made of the fine ashes flying out of the top of the chimneys and settling on flowers and plants from a quarter to half a mile away. By means of dust traps in the chimneys, this source of nuisance can be reduced to a minimum.

Most of the Lodging-houses in the Borough are kept in a cleanly condition, and comply with the Bye-laws regulating the same, but there are some which are very much overcrowded, and ought to be made to comply with the Bye-laws in that respect.

Slaughter-houses are kept fairly clean, so far as is possible with old buildings. Public abattoirs would, no doubt, be a considerable improvement, not only as a matter of cleanliness, but they would greatly facilitate the inspection of meat.

Mr. Richard Hoyle, the Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—"During the year, 92 closets were re-constructed

from the old bog-hole system to the pail system, 8 closets were built where the closet accommodation was insufficient, 10 ashpits were built where there was no ashpit accommodation, and 19 ashpits were pulled down and ash-tubs substituted. There have been 18 complaints of drains being choked up, which were remedied, and 83 old drains were trapped and connected with the new sewers. The Lodging-houses and Slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected, and kept in as thorough state of cleanliness as the present state of the buildings would allow."

The Borough is still supplied with drinking water from Clow Bridge and Calf Hey Reservoirs, but I believe the necessary connections have been made for sending on the water from the new Reservoir at Scout Bottom, belonging to the Bury Corporation. The last-named Reservoir has been made partly to satisfy the wants of the higher parts of Haslingden, which the Clow Bridge water would not reach. I hope to be able, in my next Annual Report, to say whether or not it answers that purpose. The gathering ground of all these three Reservoirs is not under the control of the Bury Corporation, consequently it is manured by the various farmers. I need hardly say how very objectionable this is, as a great quantity of the manure is washed down into the water by the rain. I think the Bury Corporation ought to make an effort to get the control of these gathering grounds, in the interests of both the inhabitants of this Borough and also those of Rawtenstall and Bury, who are all supplied with drinking water from these sources.

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The Rainfall for the year was 52·87 inches. On the Table annexed I give particulars for each month.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

J. A. HARRISON, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

RAINFALL in 1894, at HASLINGDEN, in the County of Lancaster.

Rain Guage { Diameter of Funnel, 5 inches.
Height of Top { Above Ground, 1 feet 9½ inches.
Above Sea Level 750 feet.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours.		Number of days on which .01 or more fell.
	Inches.	Depth.	Date.	
January.....	5.36	.62	16	20
February	6.88	1.56	11	19
March	4.97	.88	6	14
April	2.09	.52	13	9
May	3.52	.62	3	11
June	3.37	.68	5	12
July	5.25	1.06	18	13
August	5.58	.91	3	19
September .....	.26	.23	7	2
October	5.06	.87	24	11
November	5.11	1.29	14	13
December	5.42	1.04	18	15
Total.....	52.87			158

(Signed) J. A. HARRISON, M.D.

